

SAVE THE DOCTORS CAMPAIGN

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2009

Physicians in Danger: An Inside Look at Doctors in Conflict Zones

Toronto, Ontario— Shelled hospitals. Starved bodies. Little to no medical supplies. These are some of the challenges three government-employed doctors faced as they risked their lives to provide medical help to thousands caught in the last stages of Sri Lanka's war. Now, the stories of these men, under persecution from the authorities, will be coming to **Munk Centre in Toronto, Ontario this Monday, November 2, 2009.**

The stories of Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, Dr. V. Shanmugarajah and Dr. T. Varatharajah made headlines around the world this year and the plight to ensure their safety has quickly become a cause for the international medical community. Accordingly, the Save the Doctors campaign has been endorsed by: Physicians for Human Rights, Canadian Medical Association, Physicians for Global Survival, Doctors for Human Rights, Asian Centre for Human Rights, Canadian Association Physicians of Indian Heritage, Danish Medical Association, Finnish Medical Association, Icelandic Medical Association, Norwegian Medical Association, Swedish Medical Association and many more.

The Toronto-based event, sponsored by Amnesty International Canada and the Save the Doctors Campaign, will examine the issues of medical neutrality, press freedom and human rights in the context of doctors in conflict situations. It will take place from **6 pm to 7:15 pm**. Speakers will include Dr. James Orbinski, Craig Scott and Sharryn Aiken.

Dr. James Orbinski is a Research Scientist at St. Michael's Hospital. In 1999, as President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to MSF for its pioneering approach to medical humanitarianism. Dr. Orbinski received the Meritorious Service Cross, Canada's highest civilian citation, for his service in 1994 Rwandan genocide.

Sharryn Aiken is an Associate Professor of Law at Queen's University where she teaches international human rights law, immigration and refugee law. She is the editor-in-chief of Refuge, Canada's Periodical on Refugees, past president of the Canadian Council for Refugees.

Craig Scott is a Professor of Law at Osgoode Hall Law School and Director of the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime and Security.

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